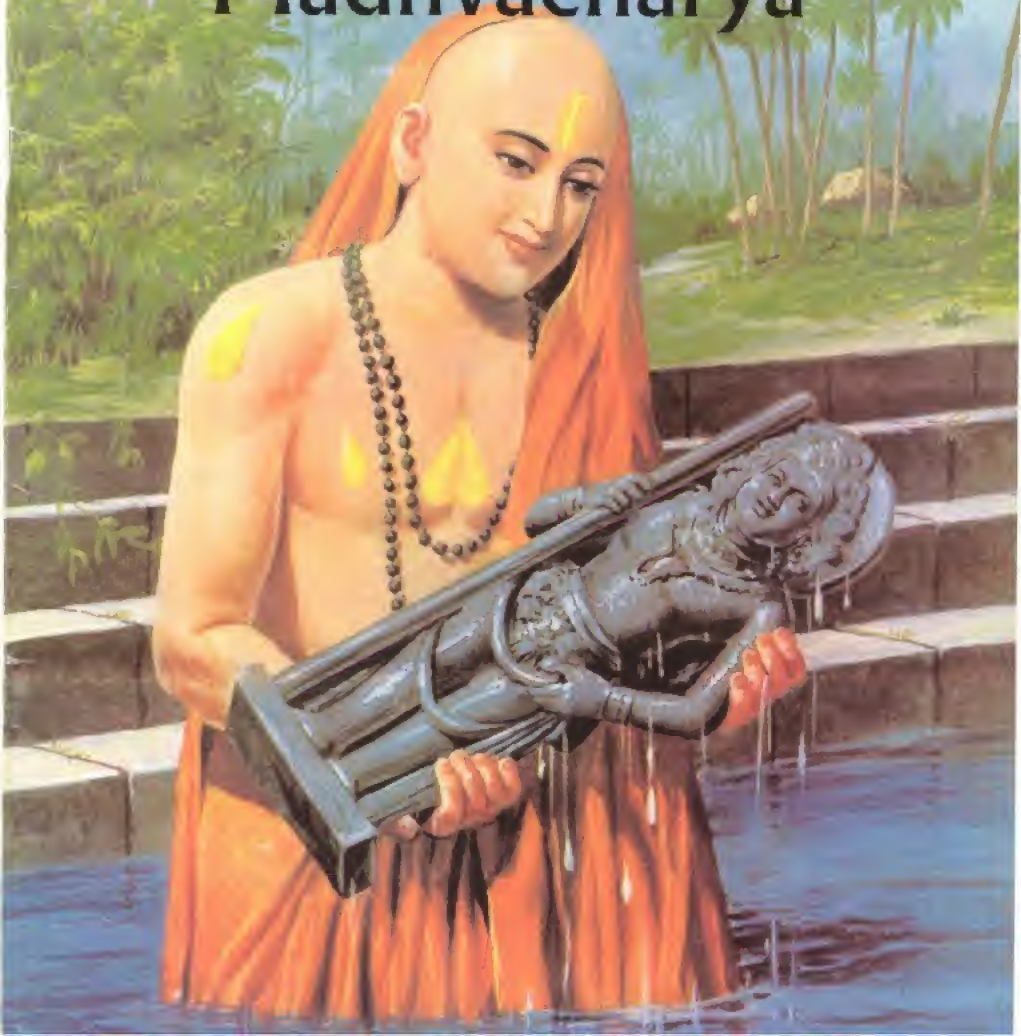




# Madhvacharya





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INDIA BOOK HOUSE

# MADHVACHARYA

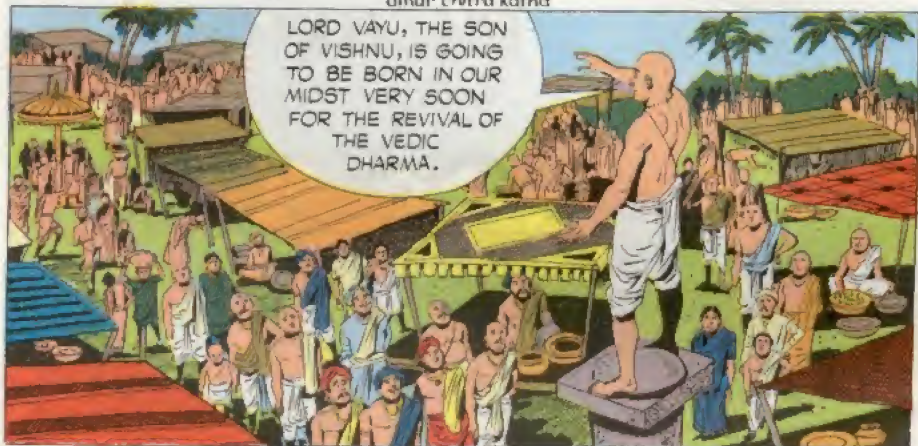


A VAST NUMBER OF DEVOTEES HAD GATHERED AT THE ANCIENT TEMPLE OF ANANTESHWARA IN UDUPI \* FOR THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL. SUDDENLY—



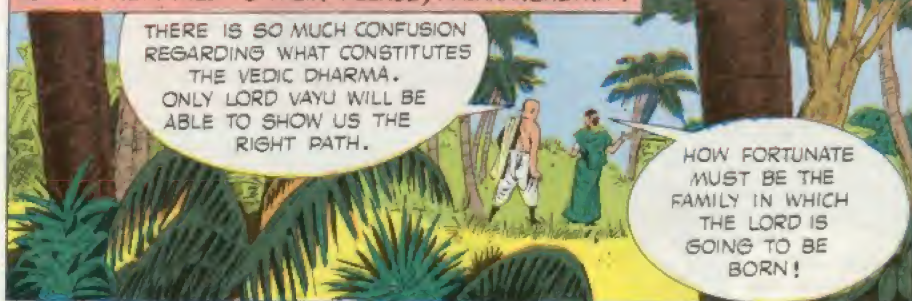
\* A COASTAL TOWN OF KARNATAKA † FLAGPOST IN FRONT OF A TEMPLE





LORD VAYU, THE SON OF VISHNU, IS GOING TO BE BORN IN OUR MIDST VERY SOON FOR THE REVIVAL OF THE VEDIC DHARMA.

ONE OF THE DEVOTEES, NARAYANA BHAT, TALKED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO HIS WIFE AS THEY RETURNED TO THEIR VILLAGE, PAJAKAKSHETRA \*



THERE IS SO MUCH CONFUSION REGARDING WHAT CONSTITUTES THE VEDIC DHARMA. ONLY LORD VAYU WILL BE ABLE TO SHOW US THE RIGHT PATH.

HOW FORTUNATE MUST BE THE FAMILY IN WHICH THE LORD IS GOING TO BE BORN!

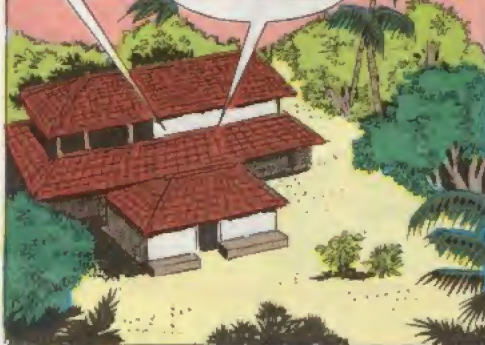
LATER, WHEN A SON WAS BORN TO THEM, ON THE AUSPICIOUS DAY OF DASSERA IN THE YEAR 1238 A.D., LITTLE DID THEY REALISE THAT THEY WERE THE CHOSEN FAMILY. ON THE TWELFTH DAY, THE BABY'S NAMING CEREMONY WAS HELD AND HE WAS GIVEN THE NAME VAASUDEVA.



ONCE WHEN VAASUDEVA WAS BARELY  
THREE YEARS OLD—

WHERE IS  
VAASUDEVA?

I THOUGHT HE  
WAS WITH YOU  
IN THE KITCHEN.



WAIT HERE. I'LL GO  
OUT AND LOOK  
FOR HIM.



THE ANXIOUS NARAYANA BHAT WENT  
OUT IN SEARCH OF HIS SON.

VAASUDEVA-A-A!

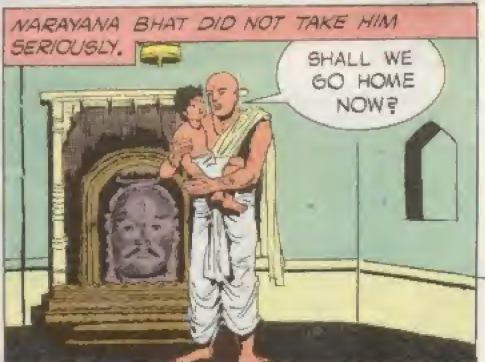
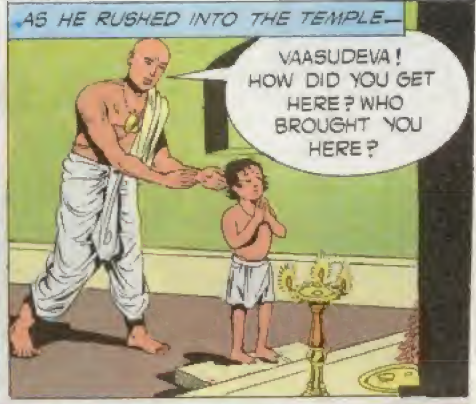


HE WALKED AS FAR AS THE TEMPLE OF ANANTESHWARA BUT THERE WAS NO TRACE  
OF THE TODDLER.

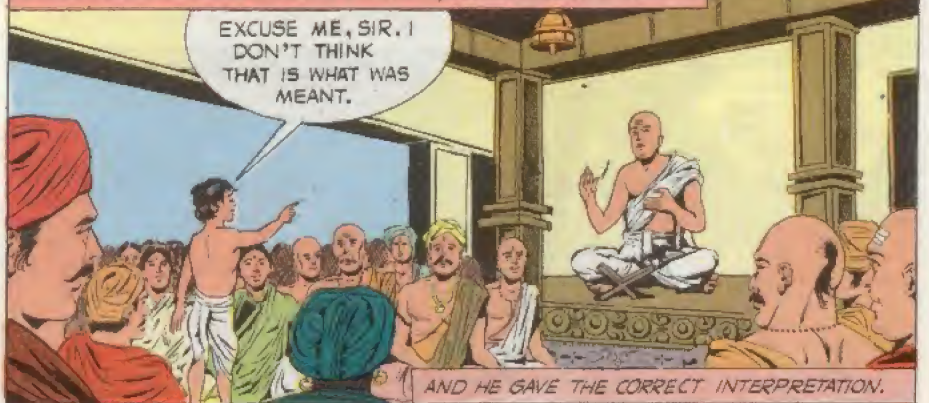
WHAT SHALL  
I DO? WHERE  
SHALL I LOOK  
FOR HIM?



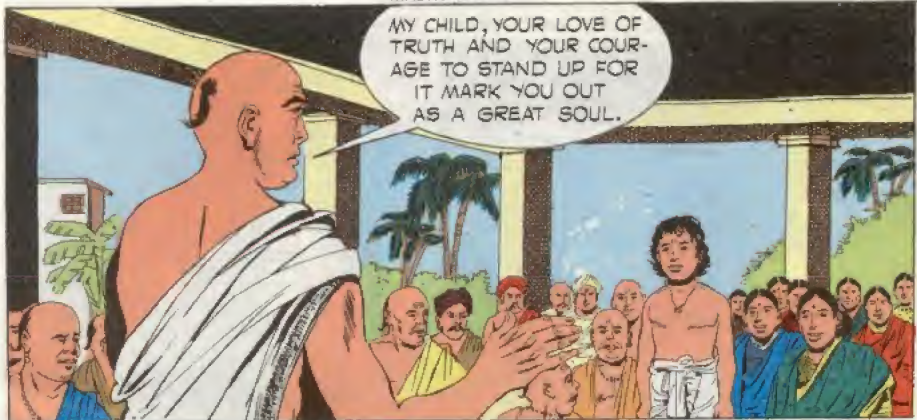




ON ANOTHER OCCASION, TWO YEARS LATER, HIS MOTHER TOOK HIM TO A RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE. VAASUDEVA SAT LISTENING, INTENTLY, SUDDENLY—




AND HE GAVE THE CORRECT INTERPRETATION.



MY CHILD, YOUR LOVE OF TRUTH AND YOUR COURAGE TO STAND UP FOR IT MARK YOU OUT AS A GREAT SOUL.

NOT ONLY WAS VAASUDEVA GIFTED WITH SPIRITUAL INSIGHT BUT HE WAS ENDOWED WITH MIRACULOUS POWERS TOO. ONE MORNING—



KAKRA SHETTY HAS BEEN VERY PATIENT. BUT I CANNOT MAKE HIM WAIT ANY LONGER. I MUST GIVE HIM THE MONEY TODAY. SOMEHOW! ANYHOW!

HE LOOKS WORRIED. I WONDER WHAT'S TROUBLING HIM.

THAT AFTERNOON—

YES, MOTHER.

VAASUDEVA, PLEASE TELL YOUR FATHER, LUNCH IS READY.

HE STILL HASN'T RETURNED.

I'LL GO OUT AND LOOK FOR HIM.



AS VAASUDEVA CAME OUT, HE SAW A MAN.



THE MAN WAS NONE OTHER THAN KAKRA SHETTY.

OH! PLEASE WAIT. I'LL BRING YOU THE MONEY.



VAASUDEVA WENT TO THE GARDEN AND PICKED UP A FEW DRY TAMARIND SEEDS.



HE CAME BACK AND PLACED THEM IN THE OUTSTRETCHED PALMS OF THE CREDITOR.



LO! THEY WERE ALL GOLD COINS.

THERE'S FAR MORE HERE THAN I LENT YOUR FATHER.





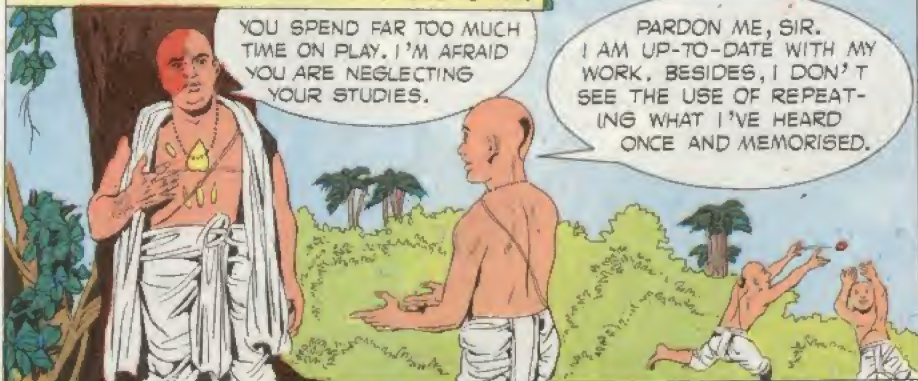
SOON IT WAS TIME FOR VAASUDEVA TO BEGIN HIS FORMAL EDUCATION. HE WAS INVESTED WITH THE SACRED THREAD AND SENT TO THE GURUKULA\* OF TOTANTILLAYA.



VAASUDEVA WAS GOOD AT HIS VEDIC STUDIES. BUT TOTANTILLAYA WAS NOT QUITE HAPPY WITH HIM.



HE CALLED VAASUDEVA ASIDE AND SPOKE TO HIM.



\* ABODE OF THE TEACHER WHERE THE STUDENTS STAYED AND STUDIED

TOTANTILLAYA WAS ENRAGED BY WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS THE BOY'S VAIN BOAST.

THEN REPEAT THE SHLOKAS \* I TAUGHT YOU THIS MORNING.

VAASUDEVA REPEATED NOT ONLY THOSE BUT ALSO MANY SUCCEEDING SHLOKAS.

IMPOSSIBLE!

SO AMAZED AND IMPRESSED WAS TOTANTILLAYA THAT HE NEVER AGAIN QUESTIONED VAASUDEVA.

THE YEARS ROLLED BY. AS THE END OF THEIR STAY AT THE GURUKULA DREW NEAR, THE BOYS TALKED ABOUT THEIR FUTURE PLANS.

I WILL BECOME A TEACHER!

I HAVE DECIDED TO OFFICIATE AT YAGNAS.†

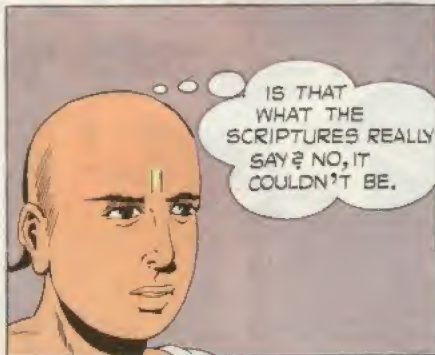
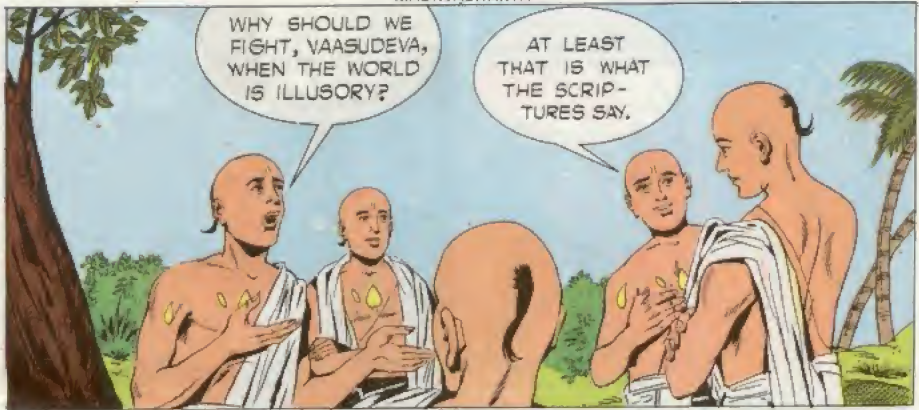
WHAT ABOUT YOU, VAASUDEVA?

VAASUDEVA SMILED.

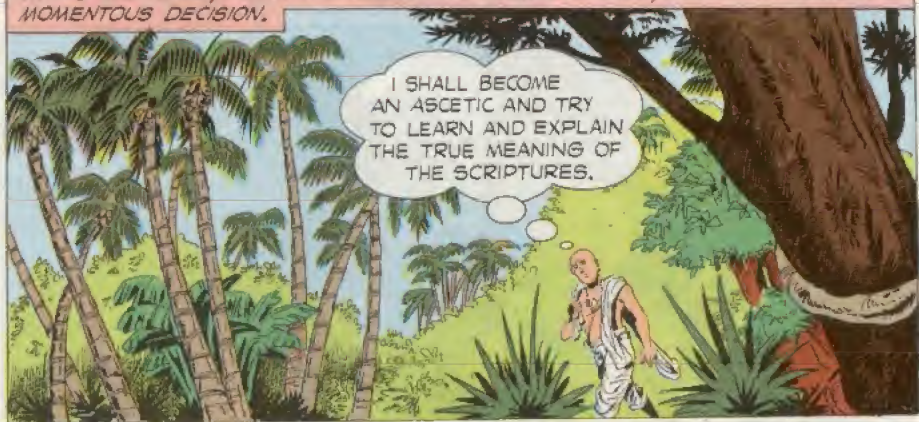
WE CAN RUN SCHOOLS AND PERFORM SACRIFICES ONLY IF OUR RELIGION SURVIVES THE ONSLAUGHTS OF HOSTILE ALIENS.

WHY DON'T WE FIGHT FOR OUR DHARMA?

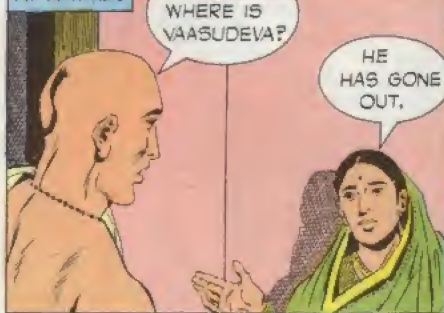




ON HIS WAY HOME, AFTER THE COMPLETION OF HIS STUDIES, VAASUDEVA MADE A MOMENTOUS DECISION.



IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, HE WOULD OFTEN DISAPPEAR FROM HOME FOR HOURS AT A TIME.



WHERE IS VAASUDEVA?

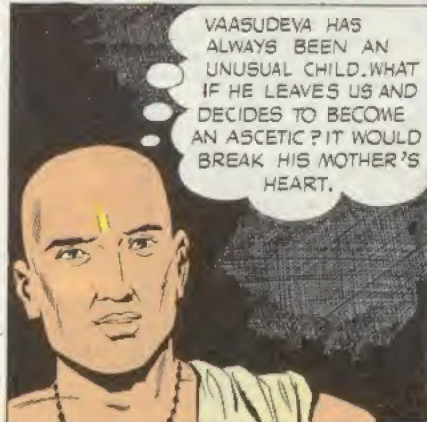
HE HAS GONE OUT.

THAT EVENING—

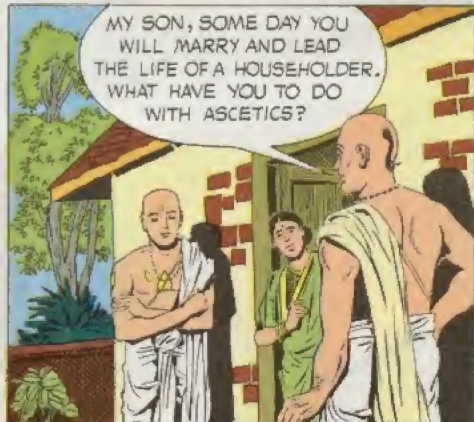


WHERE WERE YOU?

WITH ACHYUTA PRAJNA, THE ASCETIC.



VAASUDEVA HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN UNUSUAL CHILD. WHAT IF HE LEAVES US AND DECIDES TO BECOME AN ASCETIC? IT WOULD BREAK HIS MOTHER'S HEART.



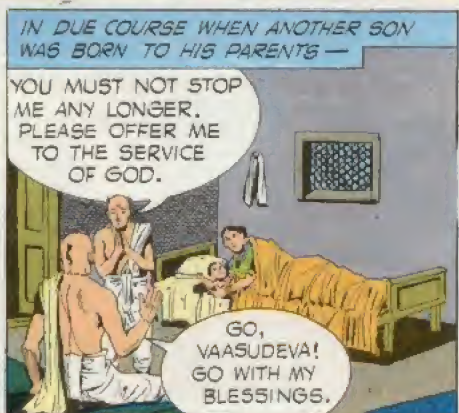
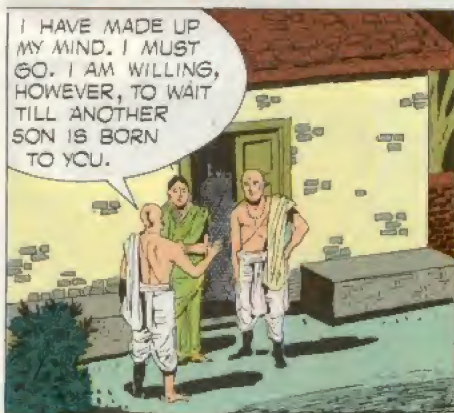
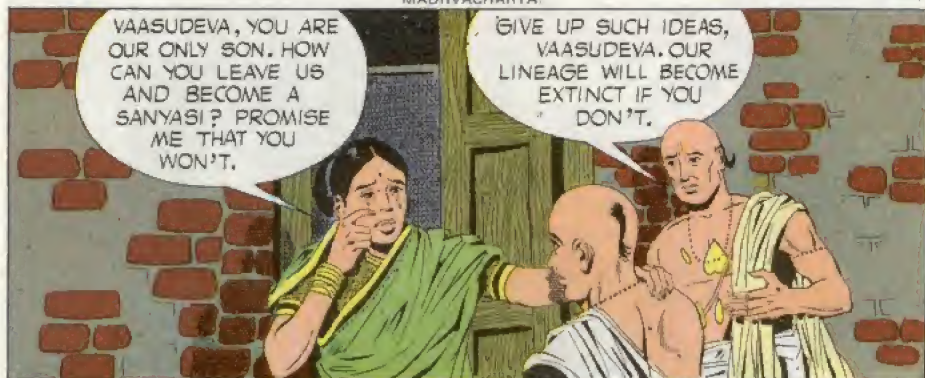
MY SON, SOME DAY YOU WILL MARRY AND LEAD THE LIFE OF A HOUSEHOLDER. WHAT HAVE YOU TO DO WITH ASCETICS?



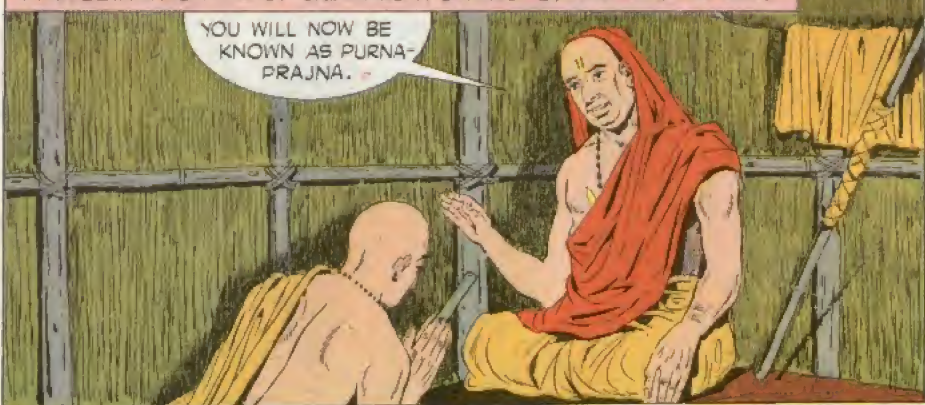
I HAVE DECIDED NOT TO MARRY. I WOULD LIKE TO RENOUNCE THE WORLD. PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR BLESSINGS.

NO! NO! VAASUDEVA!





VAASUDEVA WAS AT LAST ORDAINED A SANYASI BY ACHYUTA PRAJNA.



AND PURNAPRAJNA SAT BEFORE HIS GURU.

THE SUPREME  
BRAHMAN IS THE  
ONLY REALITY.

BUT  
SIR...

TO ACHYUTA PRAJNA'S AMAZEMENT, THE YOUNG DISCIPLE RAISED MANY  
SERIOUS AND VALID QUERIES, WHICH HE COULD NOT ANSWER.

SOON AFTER THAT, TWO RENOWNED SCHOLARS CAME TO UDUPI.

WE HAVE COME TO  
HAVE A DISPUTATION  
WITH THE SCHOLARS  
HERE.

YOU ARE  
WELCOME. I HAVE  
THE RIGHT PERSON  
FOR YOU.

DURING THE DISPUTATION, PURNAPRAJNA'S SHARP INTELLECT ASTOUNDED THE  
VISITING SCHOLARS.

I WILL ANSWER  
YOU TOMORROW.

TAKE YOUR  
OWN TIME.



THAT NIGHT—



WE HAVE NO ANSWER.  
WE CAN'T FACE  
PURNAPRAJNA  
TOMORROW.

THE NEXT MORNING, AS THE ASSEMBLY WAITED FOR THE SCHOLARS TO APPEAR—



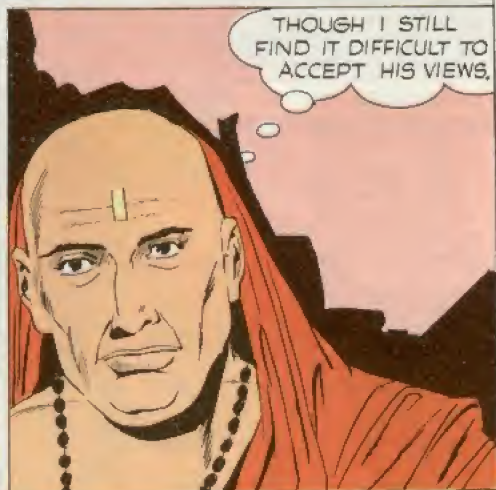
THE VISITORS ARE  
NOT TO BE  
FOUND.

NOT DARING TO MEET  
PURNAPRAJNA,  
THEY HAVE PROBABLY  
RUN AWAY.

ACHYUTA PRAJNA'S FACE BEAMED WITH SATISFACTION AND PRIDE, LATER—



I APPOINT YOU  
MY SUCCESSOR.  
YOU WILL NOW  
BE KNOWN AS  
ANANDATIRTHA.



THOUGH I STILL  
FIND IT DIFFICULT TO  
ACCEPT HIS VIEWS.

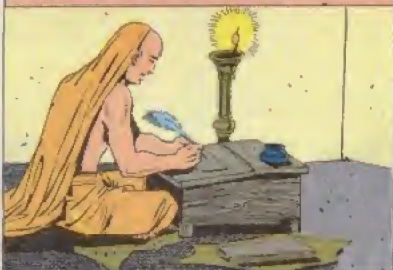
ANANDATIRTHA NOW BEGAN TO EXPOUND THE SCRIPTURES TO LARGE AUDIENCES.

HIS INTERPRETATIONS ARE ALWAYS TO THE POINT AND REFRESHINGLY ORIGINAL.

AND CONVINCING TOO, AFTER HEARING HIM SPEAK, I CAN NOT BUT BELIEVE IN THE UNSPEAKABLE GLORY OF THE SUPREME BEING.



IT WAS AROUND THIS PERIOD THAT MADHVAACHARYA, AS ANANDATIRTHA CAME TO BE KNOWN, BEGAN WRITING HIS FAMOUS COMMENTARY ON THE BHAGAWAD GITA AND...



... WENT ON A PILGRIMAGE TO SOUTH INDIA, HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SCHOLARS AT VARIOUS CENTRES OF LEARNING LIKE SRIRANGAM AND KANYAKUMARI. THOUGH MANY OF THEM WERE INITIALLY SCEPTICAL ABOUT HIS THEORIES, THEY ULTIMATELY BECAME HIS FOLLOWERS AND ADMIRERS.

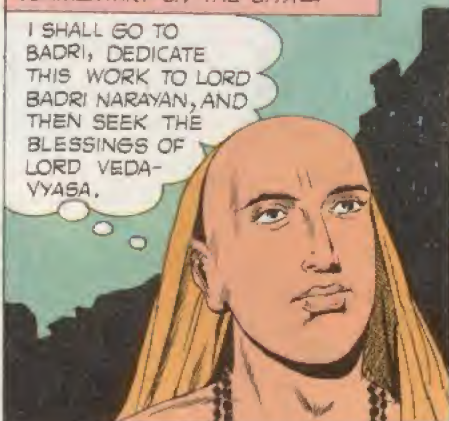
HIS LOGIC IS IMPECCABLE.

TO HEAR HIM SPEAK IS AN INTELLECTUAL TREAT.



AS SOON AS HE COMPLETED HIS COMMENTARY ON THE GITA...

I SHALL GO TO BADRI, DEDICATE THIS WORK TO LORD BADRI NARAYAN, AND THEN SEEK THE BLESSINGS OF LORD VEDAVYASA.



AFTER A LONG JOURNEY, MADHVA REACHED BADRI WITH HIS DISCIPLES.

O LORD, ACCEPT MY HUMBLE OFFERING.

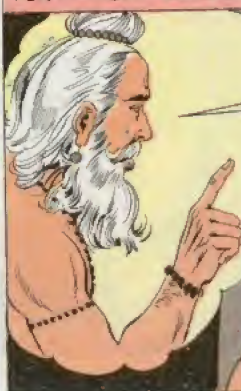




HE THEN TOOK A VOW OF SILENCE, AND FASTED AND PRAYED FOR A CALL FROM LORD VEDAVYASA.



FORTY-EIGHT DAYS LATER—



COME  
TO ME AT MY  
ASHRAM IN  
UTTARA  
BADRI.



LEAVING A MESSAGE FOR HIS DISCIPLES, HE STARTED OUT ALONE ON THE ARDUOUS JOURNEY.



A LITTLE LATER, THE DISCIPLES FOUND THE MESSAGE. ONE OF THEM READ IT OUT.



"I AM GOING AWAY TO MEET  
SRI VEDAVYASA. WHETHER  
I RETURN OR NOT IS LEFT  
TO HIM. MAY THE LORD  
BLESS AND KEEP YOU. FARE-  
WELL, DEAR DISCIPLES."

SATYATIRTHA, A DISCIPLE WHO COULD NOT BEAR TO BE SEPARATED FROM THE ACHARYA, BROKE DOWN.

O MASTER,  
WHY DIDN'T YOU  
TAKE ME WITH  
YOU?



I'LL FOLLOW THE  
MASTER AND CATCH  
UP WITH HIM. HE  
COULDN'T HAVE  
GONE FAR.



SATYATIRTHA RAN BLINDLY, AT LAST —



THERE  
HE IS!



MADHAVACHARYA MOVED FROM ROCK TO ROCK WITH EASE AND GRACE.



SATYATIRTHA FOLLOWED HIM WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY. TOWARDS EVENING, HE WAS EXHAUSTED.

NO, I CAN'T GO  
A STEP FARTHER,  
NOR CAN I RETURN.  
I AM LOST.





AT THAT MOMENT, THE ACHARYA HAPPENED TO LOOK BACK. HE SAW POOR SATYATIRTHA STRUGGLING FAR AWAY, TO FOLLOW HIM.

ACHARYA...A...



THE ACHARYA WAVED HIS POWERFUL HAND, SIGNALLING SATYATIRTHA TO GO BACK TO THE ASHRAM.



SATYATIRTHA FELT HIMSELF BEING LIFTED BY A POWERFUL GUST OF WIND...



...TO THE ASHRAM AT BADRI.

LOOK! IT'S SATYATIRTHA!



MADHVACHARYA MEANWHILE HAD REACHED VEDAVYASA'S ASHRAM.



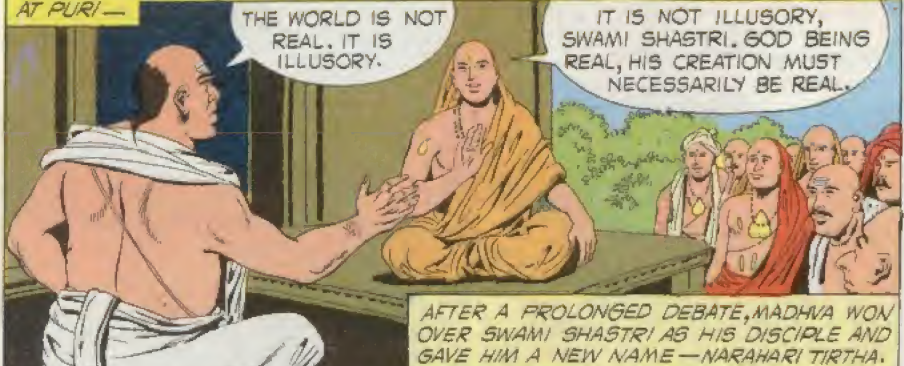
MONTHS PASSED. MADHVACHARYA WHO RECEIVED INSTRUCTION FROM VEDAVYASA DID NOT WANT TO GO BACK TO THE WORLD HE HAD LEFT BEHIND, BUT —



MADHYA RETURNED \*TO BADRI AND HIS DISCIPLES ON THE BANK OF THE HOLY ALAKNANDA. THERE HE WROTE HIS COMMENTARY ON THE BRAHMA SUTRAS <sup>†</sup> OF WHICH SATYATIRTHA LOVINGLY MADE COPIES.



MADHVACHARYA THEN SET OUT ON HIS RETURN JOURNEY TO UDUPI. ON THE WAY HE HELD PHILOSOPHICAL DEBATES WITH LEARNED SCHOLARS. AT PURI —



\* HE RECEIVED FROM VEDAVYASA EIGHT HANDFULS OF <sup>†</sup> APHORISMS COMPOSED BY VEDAVYASA THE SACRED SOIL OF UTTARA BADRI



AT PRATISHTHANA, HE MET SHOBANA BHAT, A RENOWNED SCHOLAR.

TO ACHIEVE SALVATION,  
ONE MUST RENOUNCE ACTION.  
IT IS ACTION THAT BRINGS  
ABOUT THE CYCLE OF  
BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

NO. WHAT IS TO BE  
GIVEN UP IS THE DESIRE  
FOR THE FRUITS OF  
ACTION. NOT ACTION  
ITSELF.

THE DEBATE LASTED FOR SEVERAL DAYS. IN THE END, SHOBANA BHAT\* ACCEPTED MADHVA AS HIS SPIRITUAL GUIDE.

BUT MADHVA'S GREATEST CONQUEST WAS HIS OWN MASTER — ACHYUTA PRAJNA — AT UDUPI.

MADHVA, AFTER STUDYING  
YOUR WORKS AND LISTENING  
TO YOU, I AM CONVINCED THAT  
YOURS IS THE RIGHT  
PATH.

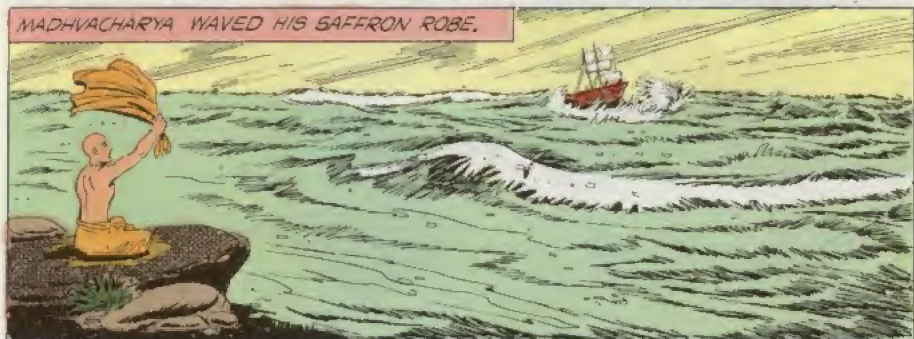
AT UDUPI, MADHVA USED TO GO TO THE SEA-SHORE EVERY MORNING, TO MEDITATE. ONE DAY A CARGO BOAT FROM DWARAKA WAS BEING MERCILESSLY TOSSED ABOUT ON THE TURBULENT SEA.

THE SHIP SEEMS  
TO BE IN TROUBLE!

\* MADHVACHARYA CONFERRED ON HIM A NEW NAME — PADMANABHA TIRTHA.



MADHVACHARYA WAVED HIS SAFFRON ROBE.



AND LO! THE SINKING SHIP WAS DRAWN ASHORE.





THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP CALLED ON MADHVACHARYA.



REVERED SIR, WE ARE FROM DWARAKA. YOU SAVED OUR LIVES. ACCEPT THESE GIFTS AND BLESS US.

WE ARE ASCETICS. OF WHAT USE ARE THESE GIFTS TO US?

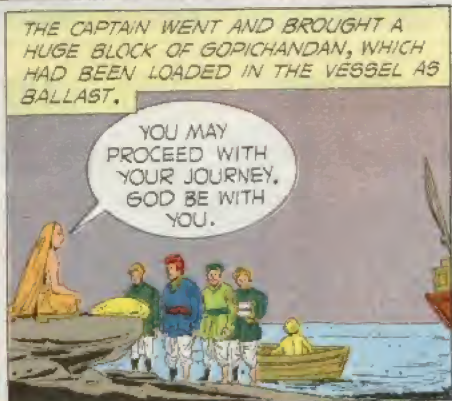
YOU MUST ACCEPT SOMETHING. PLEASE DON'T REFUSE.

ALL RIGHT, IF YOU INSIST, I WILL ACCEPT SOME GOPICHANDAN \* WHICH IS DEAR TO OUR LORD.



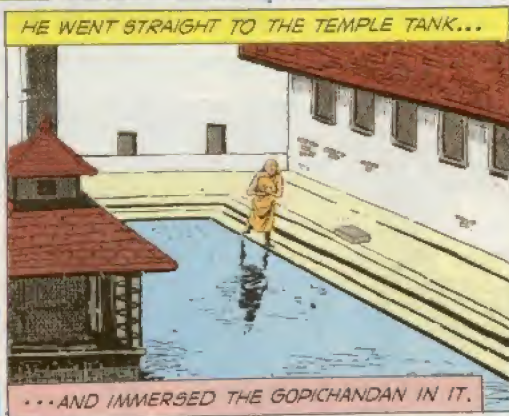
THE CAPTAIN WENT AND BROUGHT A HUGE BLOCK OF GOPICHANDAN, WHICH HAD BEEN LOADED IN THE VESSEL AS BALLAST.

YOU MAY PROCEED WITH YOUR JOURNEY. GOD BE WITH YOU.



FROM THE SHORE TO THE ANANTE-SHVARA TEMPLE, MADHVACHARYA CARRIED THE GOPICHANDAN SINGING THE GLORY OF GOD ALL THE WHILE.

HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE TEMPLE TANK...



...AND IMMERSED THE GOPICHANDAN IN IT.

\* CLOD OF EARTH, YELLOWISH IN COLOUR, FROM DWARAKA ॥ DVADASHA STOTRA

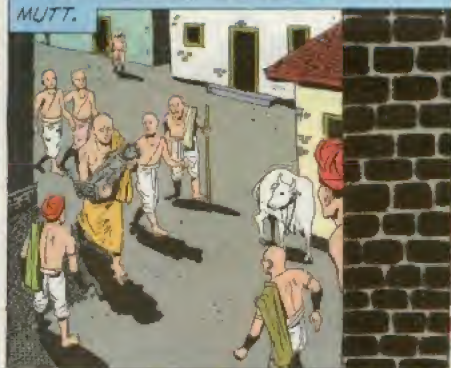
THE NEXT MOMENT, A BEAUTIFUL IDOL OF KRISHNA ROSE TO THE SURFACE.



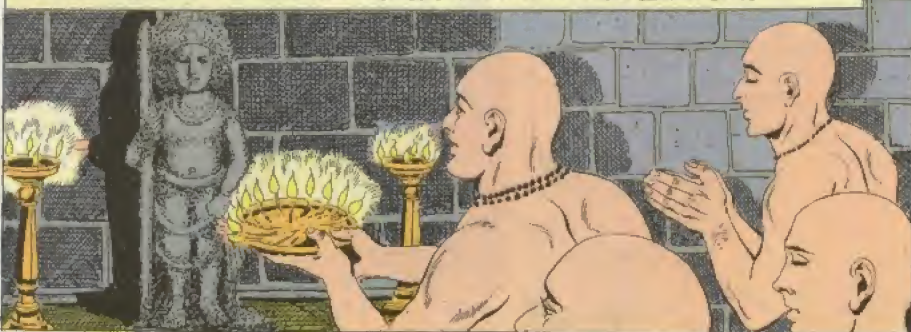
MADHVACHARYA LIFTED THE IDOL ...



... AND LOVINGLY CARRIED IT INTO HIS MUTT.

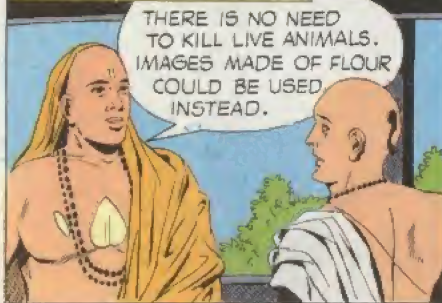


LATER, MADHVACHARYA HAD A SHRINE BUILT FOR THE LORD IN A PORTION OF HIS MUTT WHERE THE IDOL WAS CONSECRATED WITH DUE CEREMONY.





MADHVACHARYA, WHO DID NOT UPHOLD VIOLENCE, WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT THE PRACTICE OF KILLING ANIMALS AT THE TIME OF RITUAL SACRIFICES.



LATER, HIS BROTHER REPORTED TO MADHVACHARYA.

NO ONE IS PREPARED TO USE IMAGES. THEY CONTINUE TO KILL ANIMALS.

SOME ONE SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD. WHY DON'T YOU?



WHEN MADHVACHARYA'S BROTHER DID SO, ORTHODOX BRAHMAN'S INVADDED THE SACRIFICIAL SITE.



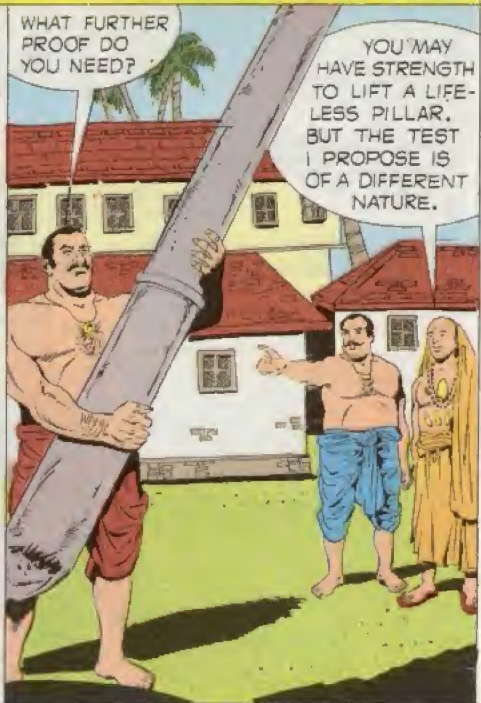
YOU ARE MISTAKEN. I AM ONLY REVIVING AN OLD CUSTOM WHICH HAS THE SANCTION OF THE SCRIPTURES. MOREOVER, NO PRACTICE WHICH UPHOLDS THE SANCTITY OF LIFE COULD BE AGAINST THE SCRIPTURES.



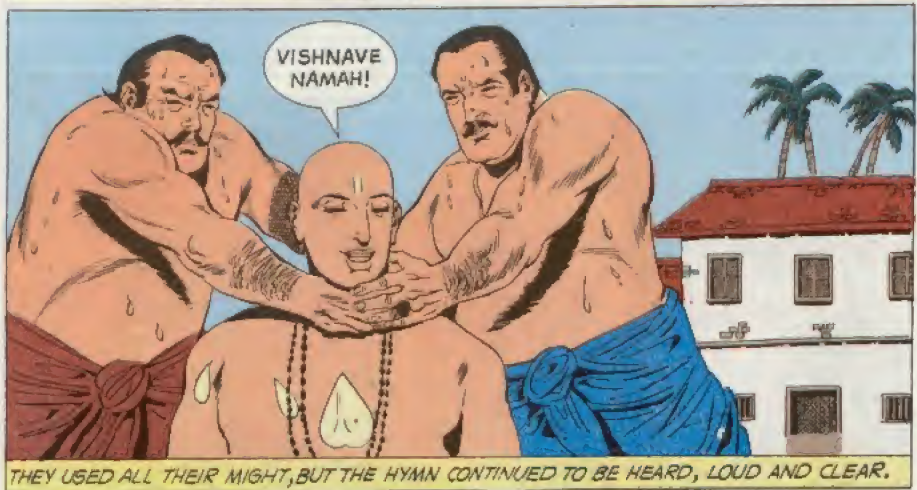
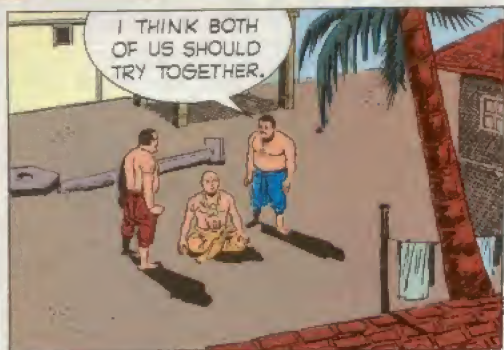
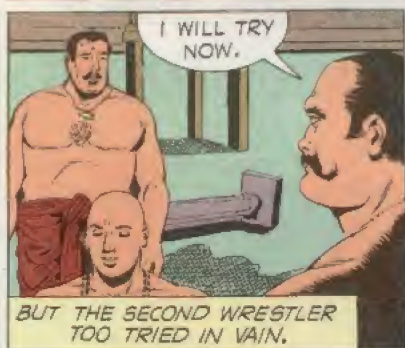
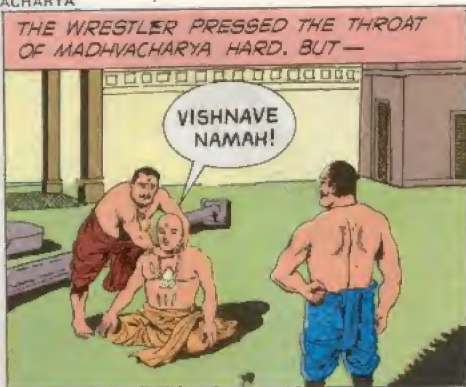
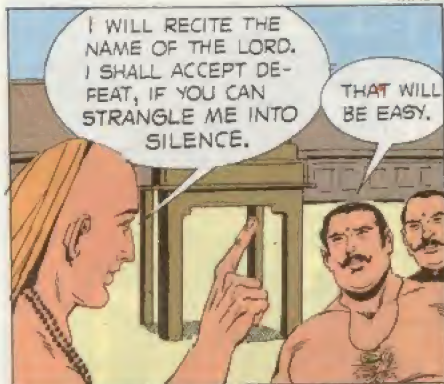


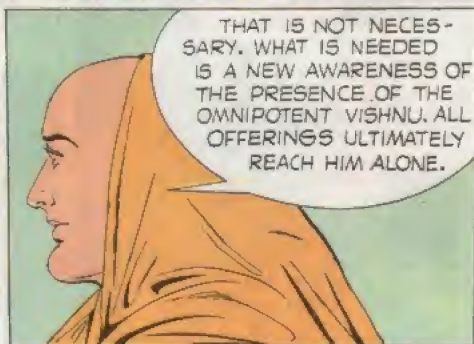
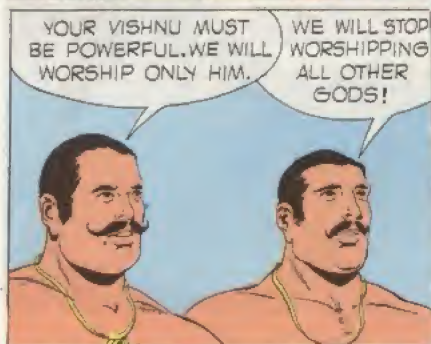
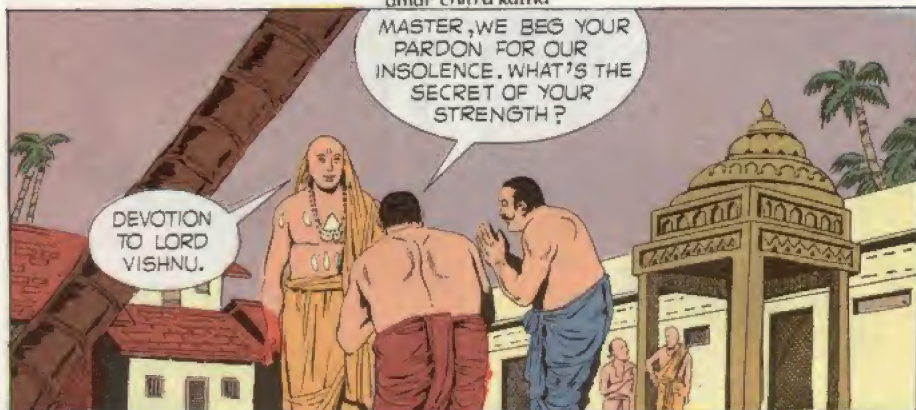
THE ORTHODOX BRAHMANS HAD TO WITHDRAW. LATER, MORE AND MORE BRAHMANS FOLLOWED THE EXAMPLE SET BY MADHVACHARYA'S BROTHER.

THOUGH KNOWN MAINLY FOR HIS POWERFUL INTELLECT, THE ACHARYA WAS ALSO FAMED FOR HIS IMMENSE PHYSICAL STRENGTH. ONCE, TWO WRESTLERS CAME TO HIM.







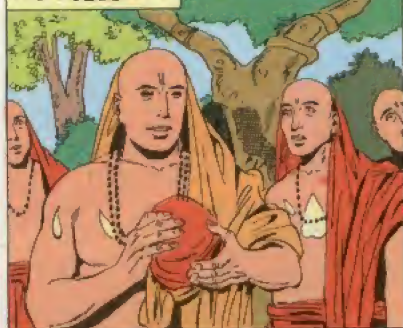


TO SPREAD HIS MESSAGE OF SELFLESS ACTION AND LOVING DEVOTION TO GOD, MADHVA UNDERTOOK A TOUR OF NORTH INDIA AGAIN. ON THE WAY—





MADHVACHARYA ROLLED UP ONE OF HIS ROBES ...



... AND THREW IT IN THEIR MIDST.



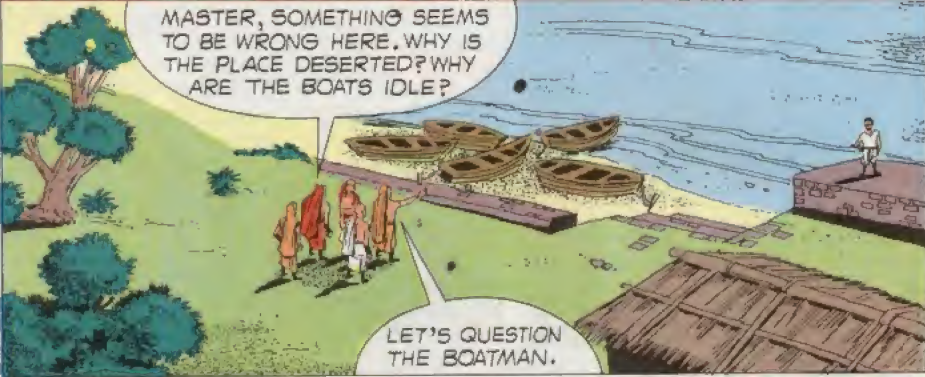
IN A MINUTE THERE WAS A SCRAMBLE FOR THE BUNDLE.



LEAVING THEM TO FIGHT IT OUT, THE ACHARYA AND HIS DISCIPLES MOVED ON.




DAYS LATER, WHEN THEY REACHED THE SOUTHERN BANK OF THE GANGA —



MASTER, SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE WRONG HERE. WHY IS THE PLACE DESERTED? WHY ARE THE BOATS IDLE?

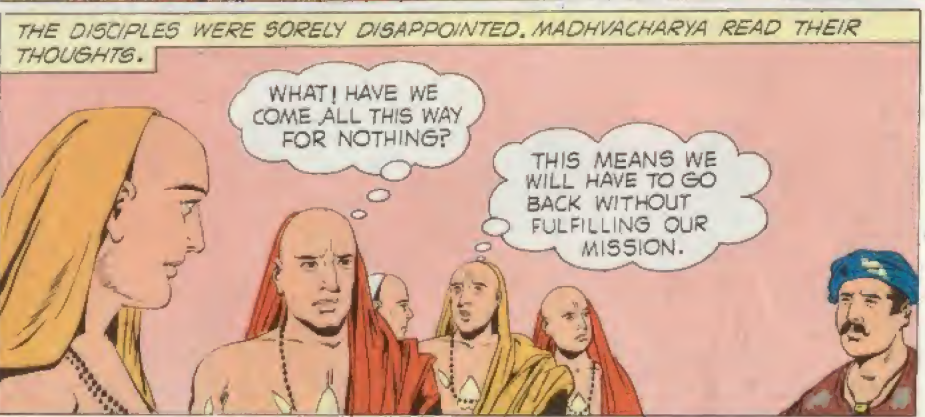
LET'S QUESTION THE BOATMAN.

THEY WALKED UP TO HIM —



YOU'D BETTER GO BACK, SIRs. WE DARE NOT TAKE ANYONE ACROSS! THE SULTAN'S ORDERS! HE'S CAMPING ON THE OTHER SIDE WITH HIS ARMY.

THE DISCIPLES WERE SORELY DISAPPOINTED. MADHVACHARYA READ THEIR THOUGHTS.



WHAT! HAVE WE COME ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTHING?

THIS MEANS WE WILL HAVE TO GO BACK WITHOUT FULFILLING OUR MISSION.



I WILL TAKE YOU ACROSS  
THE RIVER. FORM  
A SINGLE FILE AND  
HOLD ON TO THE WAIST  
CLOTH OF THE ONE  
IN FRONT OF YOU.

THE DISCIPLES DID AS THEY WERE TOLD.



THE NEXT MOMENT, THE SULTAN'S MEN ON THE OTHER BANK WERE SHOCKED  
TO SEE A ROW OF HINDU MONKS.



HEY! LOOK!  
INFIDELS!

THEY RUSHED FORWARD.

GO BACK, BEFORE  
WE MAKE MINCE-  
MEAT OF YOU.



THE ACHARYA STOOD CALM, SERENE  
AND UNPERTURBED.

WE HAVE COME TO  
SEE YOUR RULER.  
BE QUIET, BEHAVE  
YOURSELVES AND  
TAKE US TO HIM.



HEARING THE NOISE OUTSIDE, THE SULTAN HIMSELF CAME OUT.

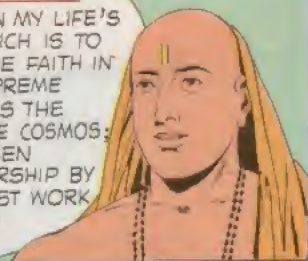


WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS IT THAT EMBOLDENS YOU TO CROSS THE RIVER WHEN HOSTILITIES ARE ON?



TO THE AMAZEMENT AND DELIGHT OF THE SULTAN, THE ACHARYA REPLIED IN CHASTE TURKISH.

I AM HERE ON MY LIFE'S MISSION WHICH IS TO SPREAD TRUE FAITH IN THE ONE SUPREME BEING WHO IS THE RULER OF THE COSMOS: WHOM ALL MEN SHOULD WORSHIP BY THEIR HONEST WORK AND LOVING DEVOTION.



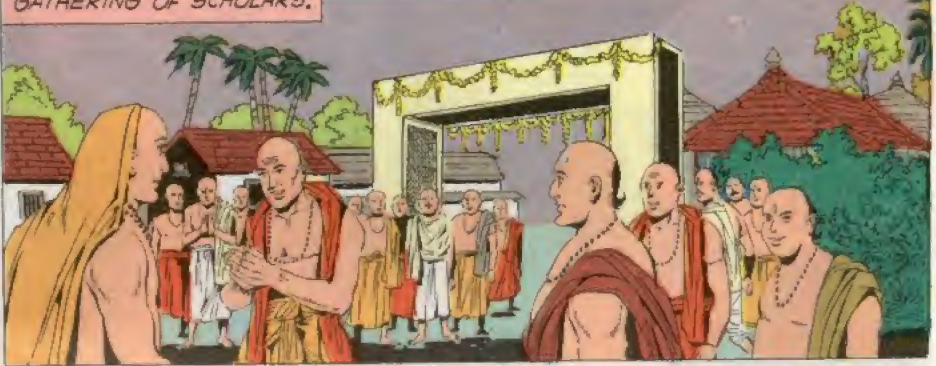
THE SULTAN WAS IMPRESSED.



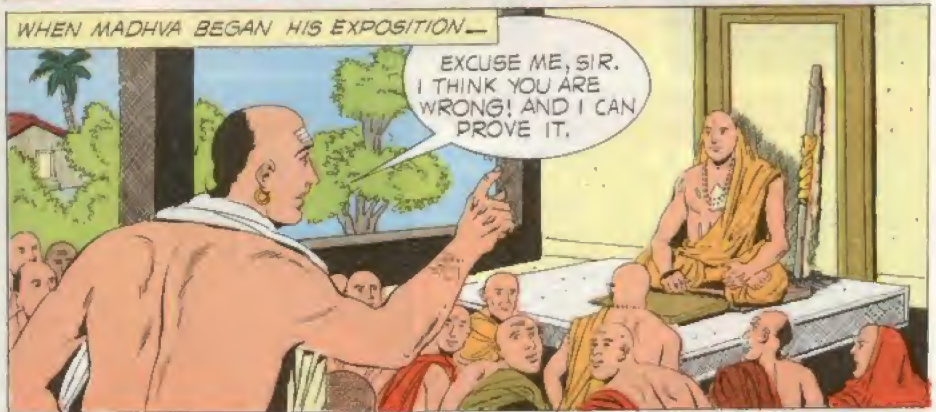
I BEG YOUR PARDON FOR THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO YOU. YOU MAY PROCEED WITH YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH MY TERRITORY. NO ONE WILL HARM YOU.



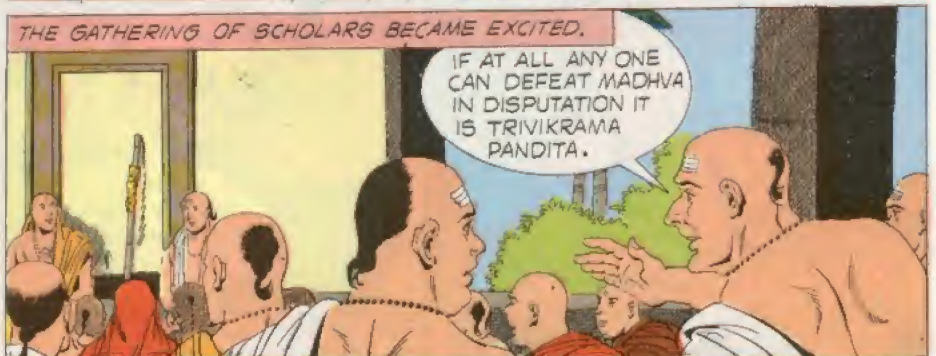
AFTER WINNING MANY FOLLOWERS IN PLACES LIKE KASHI, GAYA AND PURI, MADHVA RETURNED TO THE SOUTH. AT KUDIL\* HE WAS RECEIVED BY A LARGE GATHERING OF SCHOLARS.



WHEN MADHVA BEGAN HIS EXPOSITION—



THE GATHERING OF SCHOLARS BECAME EXCITED.

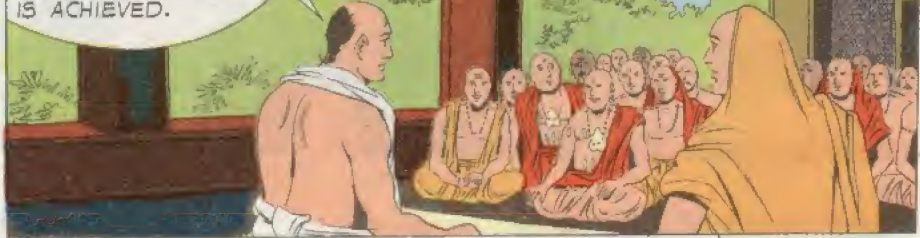


TRIVIKRAMA PANDITA WAS A DOYEN AMONG THE PHILOSOPHERS OF THE TIME.

THE SCHOLARS HEARD THE DISPUTATION WITH RAPT ATTENTION.

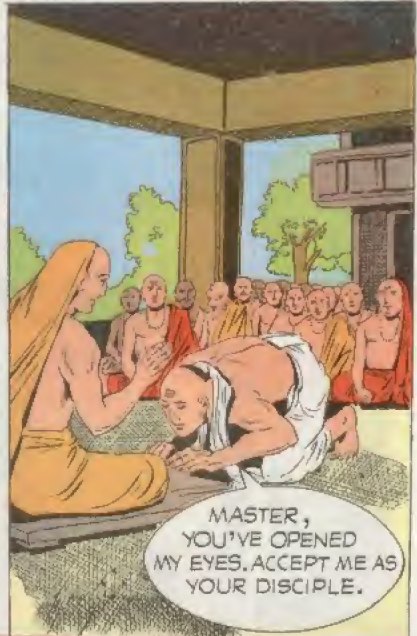
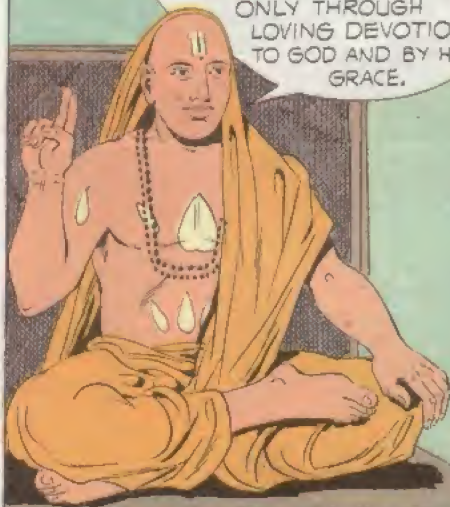
NEITHER ACTION NOR DEVOTION IS THE PATHWAY TO SALVATION. WHEN ONE REALISES THAT THE INDIVIDUAL SELF AND THE SUPREME SELF ARE ONE AND THE SAME, THAT VERY MOMENT SALVATION IS ACHIEVED.

HOW COULD THE ALL POWERFUL, ALL KNOWING, BLISSFUL, SUPREME SELF BE THE SAME AS INDIVIDUAL SELVES WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO IGNORANCE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES?



THE GREATEST DEBATE OF THE TIME CONTINUED FOR FIFTEEN DAYS.

GOD IS THE INDEPENDENT REALITY. INDIVIDUALS ARE REAL TOO BUT ARE DEPENDENT ON GOD. INDIVIDUALS CAN ATTAIN SALVATION ONLY THROUGH LOVING DEVOTION TO GOD AND BY HIS GRACE.



MASTER, YOU'VE OPENED MY EYES. ACCEPT ME AS YOUR DISCIPLE.

EVEN TO THIS DAY THERE ARE MILLIONS OF FOLLOWERS OF MADHVA ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.





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Madhva freed the concept of Bhakti from the clutches of blind faith and placed it in its right perspective as informed faith in, and love of God, both based on a right understanding of his glory. He also rescued it from the pitfalls of sentimentalism, eroticism and other maladies.

Madhva lived a robust life of 79 years. He was a prolific writer in Sanskrit prose and verse. He wrote thirty-nine works which are collectively known as Sarvamula. These include commentaries on Rig Veda, Upanishads, Gita, Brahmasutras, Mahabharata, Bhagawat and critical works on logic and metaphysics, rituals and *sadachara* (right conduct). He also wrote a number of devotional hymns.

The Chaitanya Sampradaya of Bengal is deeply indebted to Madhva's philosophy in many respects. It includes in its *guruparampara* Madhva and his successors, Jayatirtha and Vyasatirtha. The followers of Madhva are found in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa and Uttar Pradesh.

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